

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 11, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. THOMSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 399.]

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Thomas G. Corbin, a lieutenant in the navy, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report:*

That the petitioner was a passed midshipman on board the United States frigate Columbia, the flag-ship of the Brazil squadron; and that on the 24th day of August, 1846, he was appointed acting flag-lieutenant to fill one of two vacancies that occurred in the grade of lieutenant.

The act of 10th August, 1846, gave to passed midshipmen performing the duties of master the pay of the higher grade; but the existence of the act was at the time unknown in the squadron, as will appear from the following certificate of the commander-in-chief:

NEW ORLEANS, December 31, 1847.

I hereby certify that when Passed Midshipman Thomas G. Corbin was appointed an acting lieutenant, to supply the vacancy by Lieutenant Drayton being sent home sick from the frigate Columbia, the usual formality of previously appointing him an acting master was dispensed with, inasmuch as at that time such appointment conferred no increase of compensation.

L. ROUSSEAU,  
*United States Navy.*

Under the act of 1846, an officer junior to the petitioner, who held the appointment of acting master by the same authority, received the compensation of the higher grade, while the petitioner was continued upon the pay of a passed midshipman.

By the sixth section of the naval appropriation act of 3d March, 1847, it was provided:

“That when any master in the navy, or passed midshipman, holding an acting appointment as master from the Secretary of the Navy, has performed, or shall hereafter perform, the duty of lieutenant, under an order of the commander of the vessel to which he was or shall be at

the time attached, to supply a deficiency in the established complement of lieutenants of said vessel, whether belonging to a squadron or on separate service, which order shall have been subsequently approved by the Secretary of the Navy, shall be allowed the pay of a master for the period or periods during which he shall have performed such duty."

The petitioner asks the difference of pay between that of passed midshipman (\$750 a year) and that of master, (\$1,000 a year,) which he would have received under the above acts, by being first appointed master, had their existence been known to the commander-in-chief at the time of his appointment as acting lieutenant. The time of service, and the amount involved, are stated in the following letter from the Navy Department:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *March 16, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, inclosing a petition of Lieutenant Thomas G. Corbin, and to inform you that Lieutenant Corbin served as flag-lieutenant, on board the *Columbia*, from August 24, 1846, to October 25, 1847; and that the difference between the pay of a passed midshipman and that of a master, for that period, amounts to \$293 15. The petition is herewith returned.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Hon. S. R. MALLORY,

*Chairman Com. on Naval Affairs, U. S. Senate.*

The act of July 27, 1854, gave to passed midshipmen Welsh and Wells the pay of lieutenants for the time they served as acting lieutenants. The petitioner asks that he may be allowed the compensation of the intermediate rank of master only, which your committee are unanimously of the opinion should be paid him. They, therefore, submit the accompanying bill with the recommendation that it do pass.